

## ECW Diocese of Southern Virginia A Brief History

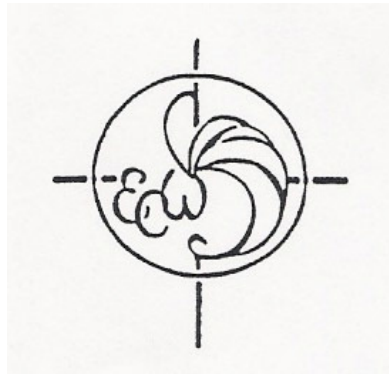
The Woman's Auxiliary to the Episcopal Church was organized in Baltimore, MD in 1871 with Miss Mary Emery as its first secretary. A year later Miss Emery came to Norfolk and visited the home of Mrs. Tazewell Taylor. At a meeting at St. Paul's Church in Norfolk, the Norfolk Branch of the Auxiliary was founded with Miss Louisa Taylor, then 18 years old, elected the first secretary.

Miss Louisa and her friend, Miss Sallie Stuart, formed several branches around the state, but they were not allowed by the Bishop to form a diocesan group.

In 1890 the Bishop gave them permission to form the Diocesan Women's Auxiliary. The name of the Women's Auxiliary changed to the Women of the Church and later to the Episcopal Church Women, the name by which it is known today.

We are an organization to assist the women of the Episcopal Church to carry on Christ's work for reconciliation, mission and ministry in the community, the nation and the world and to take their places in the life, governance and worship of the Church.

Over the years many capable and dedicated women of distinction have served the organization in many capacities following Mrs. Louisa Taylor Letcher and Miss Sallie Stuart, who ventured for Christ in those early years and whose names will always be held in the highest esteem. From its humble beginning in 1890 the ECW in the Diocese of Southern Virginia has grown to a viable organization in the nine convocations of our diocese.



**ABOUT OUR LOGO:** The Cross represents Christ and our service to Him in the world.  
The Circle stands for our hope for wholeness in our lives.  
The out flowing lines from the center depict the many works of Episcopal Church Women going out into the world.  
The intertwined lines represent our lives centered in Christ.